Iqbal Chapter One Response

I have just read reading chapter 1 of a realistic fiction novel called Iqbal by Francesco D’Adamo. This chapter is about Fatima’s life changing experience in child labour working for master Hussain Khan at a carpet industry in Pakistan to pay off debts for her family.  
  
I think the author’s purpose for writing this text is to let us understand/imagine how Fatima’s life is. My purpose for reading this text is to understand life in child labour for my “2 minutes to make a difference” project. The chapter’s purpose in my point of view is to give us a hint on what we will be reading about later on this novel.   
  
To me the most key line worth remembering is “when you see this slate wiped completely clean, then you'll be able to return home." When I read this part on page 5 continued on page 6, it made me think of freedom. I was very glad to hear that there might have been a way out of child labour for them, though it takes time, it may be a hard way because they must work hard to earn that rupee each day, but at least they get what they put into it. I think the statement meant hard work gets you somewhere because if the child labourers don't work hard at all they won't get any rupees and the lines on their slates will not be erased meaning they will have to keep working longer. Considering Fatima mentioned she has never seen a clean slate on page 6, there hard work might not really get anywhere. It seems master Hussain Khan is being unfair and is keeping all the children. Another key line was "that is, until the day Iqbal arrived." This statement was the last sentence on page 9, it was very out standing because it introduced us to Iqbal, I think it will make it very interesting for the upcoming chapter because it may lead to another story of child labour that mainly focuses on Iqbal Masih. Names that are worth remembering are first Fatima, whose name was first introduced around the bottom of page 2. I remember her name because so far chapter one was about her experience getting into child labour. Second was the master, Hussain Khan, which I think is a mean person because, of the fact that he is taking away the kids childhood. Also when he said to Fatima, "little Fatima, my little Fatima" (page 7) sounds like a mock. That is just my opinion because I think he is the one making all these kids suffer. I understand that they do have to pay off debt and that he isn't the worst master there is. I may be wrong, but because of the fact that he seems like the mean boss of the story, his name stands out to me. The third name that I remembered were the numskulls on page 4, the ones who slept with the looms chained to their ankles, who worked slowly and poorly. I remember them because to me in most stories there is always a person or people that are the "bad, lazy" ones, and those personalities remind me of the numskulls, I do understand it is very hard to be a child labour. Lastly, Iqbal because he is the title of the story which makes me excited. Places worth remembering are the carpet industry because it is where the child labourers in this story work. Also Pakistan, because it is where the story takes place.  
  
This book’s organizational feature is a chapter book, it helps me because of all the details it gives. The chapters were labelled as numbers which I found a little bit harder because it doesn't give an idea about the chapter. Giving the chapter a title or a topic name would have been easier because like I said it gives you an idea of what you're about to read.   
  
I can relate to the story because I myself am also a worker just like all the child labourers. It is different kind of work from making carpets but it is still work. The work I do are simple chores like cleaning around the house, cleaning dishes or folding laundry. This now leads to the numskulls, they always complain about things that are easy for the other child labourers. I myself complain about doing chores because I get lazy and my parents don't like that. I think both of those things relate because the child labourers are workers just like I am at times and I also complain like the numskulls do. A second relation I have is how the child labourers pay off debt by working. It is a little bit different for me because I don't work to pay off debt though my parents do. They work and use some of the money they earn to pay off debt on our house and cars. They both some what relate because it both includes paying off debt by working and earning the money.  
  
My ah-ha moment was when Iqbal arrived, it introduced us to Iqbal, the first prediction I had was that Iqbal was going to change Fatima's life somehow or help her throughout out the the child labour experience while he struggles himself. Another ah-ha moment was when I found out on page 5 that if all the rupees were erased by working hard the child labourers would be free, I was very glad to find out that the child labourers might have a way out. It made me think about the project " 2 minutes to make a difference" because part of most research is how the issue could be stopped. However for Fatima, the chances of her and the child labourer’s being free was very, very small, because Fatima says she has never seen a clean slate which could mean Hussain Khan keeps the children. A question I have is how her family got debts that cause Fatima to work at the carpet industry. It may be because her family needed some more money for food and needed some more money to be healthy or get medical help.